



print image size, the number of pixels of the width of the print image is calculated by:

Horizontal size (number of pixels) of corrected print
image = vertical size (number of pixels) of
5 original image \times {(horizontal size of actual print
size/vertical size of actual print size)}

Likewise, if it is determined in step S4303 that
the number of pixels of the width of the print image has
exceeded that of the original image, the horizontal size
10 of the print image is set at that of the original image.
Then, the number of pixels of the print image in the
vertical direction is calculated using an equation in
which values for the height and width in the
aforementioned equation are replaced.

15 Furthermore, if it is determined in step S4303
that both the height and width of the print image size
have exceeded the original image size, both the
correction process executed when the height has exceeded,
and that executed when the width has exceeded are
20 executed, the vertical sizes (or horizontal sizes) of
the two correction results are compared to each other,
and the correction result corresponding to a larger size
is determined to be the print image size.

The print image size calculated by the
25 aforementioned process is output to the print image
transmission means 602.

At this time, during execution of the flow chart shown in Fig. 29, the operator cannot suspend the process, except for an error recovery process of a printer or the like. Even during the error recovery
5 process, the operator cannot access print data and print images stored in the print server 121. Furthermore, the processes from a print instruction in step S2702 to print completion in step S2704 are inhibited from being interrupted by the operator's will, thus further
10 protecting images.

In the print server 121, after a print original image is stored in the print original image storage device 716 by the print image registration means 704, and information of that image is stored in the original
15 image location management table 715, print order data can be prepared using the print image registration means 704 or order output management means 701, and can be stored in the order management table 711. Also, the print order can be printed by the print process done by
20 the order output management means 701 and print control means 702 on the basis of the print order data stored in the order management table 711 by the above method. In this case, data exchange with the center server 102 and the order submission process from the client computer
25 101 are not required.

In this manner, the print process is completed.
When a preview image is displayed on the CRT 2006 to
confirm the print image before execution of the print
process in step S2909, a preview image is generated
5 using the file designated by the file name extracted in
step S2903, i.e., the image file embedded with the
digital watermark, thus preventing illicit use of an
image when the image displayed on the CRT 2006 is
hard-copied.

10 <Print Completion Process in Center Server>

If printing has succeeded, the center
transmission/reception means 407 of the center server
102 receives a print completion message data file
prepared in step S2704 from the print server 121. The
15 means 407 stores the received print completion message
data file in the center reception box 419, reads out the
order progress management means 406 from the HDD 1009 or
the like, and maps and activates it on the RAM 1002. The
means 407 stores the file name of the print completion
20 message data file in the center reception box 419 in the
RAM 1002, and passes it to the order progress management
means 406 via the RAM 1002, thus executing the print
completion process in the center server.

Fig. 28 is a flow chart showing the print
25 completion process in the order progress management
means 406 of the center server 102.